

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 3, 2003

CHIEF RAMSEY EXTENDS EMERGENCY CRIME INITIATIVE

In late August, Chief Ramsey announced an emergency Crime Initiative in response to spikes in crime occurring in all seven police districts. Commanders were directed to identify the top crime problems in their districts and to develop strategies for addressing those problems. The Chief also suspended the scheduling provisions (Article 24) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, giving commanders greater flexibility in assigning personnel to carry out their crime-fighting strategies. Under the initiative, commanders can adjust schedules without providing officers with the usual 14-day notice. This week, the Chief announced that the Crime Initiative would continue through December 1. Since the initiative was announced, he said, the MPDC has documented some encouraging results, including a double-digit decrease in overall crime over the past 30 days when compared with the previous 30 days, according to preliminary statistics. Individual districts have also seen some positive trends in addressing their specific crime targets. However, the Chief noted that no district has achieved all of its goals, and recent history shows that October and November have tended to be among higher-crime months in DC, with an average of 30 homicides a month over the past two years. Ramsey noted that although the Crime Initiative gives commanders greater flexibility to adjust schedules, most of the staffing changes have been achieved without widespread disruptions to officers' schedules.

- ① For more information about the crime-fighting goals and strategies in your community, contact your local district commander. To learn what district you live in, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>

MAYOR RELEASES CITYWIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE STRATEGY

Mayor Williams, joined by Chief Ramsey and Department of Health (DOH) Director James Buford, this week released the First Citywide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Strategy for the District of Columbia. The strategy, the first of its kind in any major metropolitan jurisdiction in the US, reflects two years of work by 14 participating city government agencies under the direction of the Interagency Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Control, co-chaired by Buford and Ramsey. Mayor Williams appointed the Task Force in May 2001 in response to the District household survey on substance abuse, which was undertaken the previous year. The survey revealed that nearly 10 percent of District residents are addicted to illegal drugs or alcohol – more than half the national average. The baseline social cost to the District is approximately \$1.2 billion annually. Charged with preparing and recommending an effective substance abuse strategy and budget, the Task Force designed a plan with two ambitious goals: 1) reducing the city's addicted population by 25,000 by the year 2010, and 2) reducing the annual cost to \$300 million. The strategy combines three fundamental approaches to substance abuse: prevention, treatment and law enforcement.

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2340>
- ① To request a printed copy of the strategy, contact Wendy Salaam of the DOH at (202) 442-5881 or via email at wendy.salaam@dc.gov.
- ① A draft copy of the report is available on the DOH website at:
http://dchealth.dc.gov/services/administration_offices/apr/public_comment_draft.shtm

MPDC ANNOUNCES NEW PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT ZONES

Responding to continuing public concerns over speeding in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC is adding two new enforcement zones to its photo radar speeding reduction program and is expanding two existing areas to encompass additional blocks. The following two enforcement zones have been added to the MPDC's regular rotation of photo radar vehicle deployments: the 4000-5100 blocks of Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE, and the 2600-4000 blocks of South Capitol Street, SE. In addition, the Department has expanded two existing enforcement zones to include the following blocks: the 2600-3700 blocks of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE (previously, 2600-3200 blocks), and the 2800-4200 blocks of Alabama Avenue, SE (previously, 2800-4000 blocks). With the addition of the two new enforcement zones, the MPD now has a total of 67 areas in which photo radar vehicles may be deployed. The zones are a mix of residential streets, major arteries and highways covering all seven police districts and eight wards. The zones are selected by the MPDC, based on an analysis of crash and fatality data, observations by police officers and community input.

OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

Although community policing and crime prevention are year-round activities, each year October is set aside as National Crime Prevention Month. The MPDC encourages DC residents to use this month as a time to commit to getting involved in "Policing for Prevention" in their communities. For example, residents are urged to attend the October PSA meeting in their neighborhood. PSA meetings give police and residents a chance to meet one another, identify crime problems and develop joint problem-solving strategies. Residents can also attend their district's Citizen Advisory Council, which works with the district commander on broader strategies and resource needs. Other crime prevention activities include marching with (or starting) a citizen patrol (often known as Orange Hats or Red Hats), getting involved with a Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain program, start a community newsletter or Listserv, or volunteer to support neighborhood youth. Said Chief Ramsey, "Crime Prevention Month is a perfect time for residents to get to know their PSA officers and to get involved. Our commitments this month will yield positive results throughout the year."

NEWS & NOTES

Coaches Against Gun Violence. The MPDC is joining with DC-area football coaches and other leaders in a new public education campaign targeting gun violence. Over the next several weeks, officials will dedicate individual football games to recent young victims of gun violence. Details at http://www.allianceforjustice.org/student/against_violence/index.html

Online Towed Vehicle Locator. If your vehicle has been towed in DC, the Department of Public Works has a new resource to help you locate it: the online Towed Vehicle Locator, available at <http://dpw.dc.gov/services/towing/locator.asp>

Citizen Summit III. Residents are reminded to join Mayor Williams and other DC leaders for Citizen Summit III, on Saturday, November 1, from 8 am–4 pm at the new Washington Convention Center. Details and online registration are available at <http://citizensummit.dc.gov/main.shtm>.

Drug Free Zones. A drug free zone is in effect this weekend in the Seventh District, with additional zones planned for next week. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

① Read the announcement at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2338>

① For complete information about the MPDC's photo radar speeding reduction program—including the latest results and the locations of all 67 enforcement zones - visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm>

① For more information about Policing for Prevention and how residents can get involved, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/plp/together.shtm>

① In recognition of Crime Prevention Month, PSA 411 is starting a Blue Hat Patrol initiative, targeting nuisance buildings in their Northwest DC neighborhood. For more information, contact Yvonne Smith, 4D Community Outreach Coordinator, at (202) 576-8227 or via email at ysmith@mpdc.org.

① This month, DC plays host to the National Conference on Preventing Crime: Power of Prevention, United for a Stronger America, at the Hilton Washington in Northwest DC. For details, go to: <http://www.ncpc.org/ncpc/ncpc/?pg=5882-7518-4856>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 10/2/03)

- 2003: 188
- 2002: 181
- % Change: +3.9%

Arrests (week ending 9/27/03)

- Total: 852
- Drugs: 134
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 12
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 41

Firearm Recoveries (as of 10/1/03)

- Total: 1,457
- September: 134

Traffic Fatalities (as of 10/2/03)

- 2003: 53
- 2002: 42
- % Change: +26.2%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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